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10/586,130

07/17/2006

Masaaki Takegami

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EXAMINER

RUBY, TRAVIS C

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

3744

NOTIFICATION DATE

DELIVERY MODE

12/03/2009

ELECTRONIC

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Notice of the Office communication was sent electronically on above-indicated "Notification Date" to the following e-mail address(es):

mailroom@bskb.com

| | | | |
|------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|--|
| Office Action Summary | Application No. 10/586,130 | Applicant(s) TAKEGAMI ET AL. | |
| | Examiner TRAVIS RUBY | Art Unit 3744 | |

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 05 August 2009.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-4 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-4 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims 1-4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ueno et al (US6131402) in view of Toshiro (JP10-201083).

Re Claim 1. Ueno et al teaches a refrigeration system for performing a refrigeration operation in which electric systems of a plurality of refrigeration system components are supplied with electric power from a power supply (Column 6 lines 4-30, it is inherent that power would be supplied to the refrigeration units)

Ueno et al fails to teach a breaker connecting the plurality of refrigeration system components in parallel to the power supply; a sequential startup section configured to, upon operation restart after the breaker trips owing to failure in one or more of the electric systems of the refrigeration system components, sequentially start up target refrigeration system components previously selected from among the refrigeration system components; and a failure processing section configured to means for, if the breaker trips again owing to failure in one or more of the electric systems of the refrigeration system components during the sequential startup of the target refrigeration system components through the sequential startup exclude the refrigeration system component supplied with electric power just before the occurrence of the

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failure from the target refrigeration system components to be started up by the sequential startup section means.

Toshira teaches a breaker connecting the plurality of refrigeration system components in parallel to the power supply (Paragraph 39-43; abstract); a sequential startup section configured to, upon operation restart after the breaker trips owing to failure in one or more of the electric systems of the refrigeration system components, sequentially start up target refrigeration system components previously selected from among the refrigeration system components (Paragraphs 28, 34, 73, 110-115; abstract); and a failure processing section configured to means for, if the breaker trips again owing to failure in one or more of the electric systems of the refrigeration system components during the sequential startup of the target refrigeration system components through the sequential startup exclude the refrigeration system component supplied with electric power just before the occurrence of the failure from the target refrigeration system components to be started up by the sequential startup section means (Paragraphs 28, 34, 58, 65, 58, 71-75, 87, 110-115; abstract).

In view of Toshira's teachings it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to include a means for detecting failures during a restart of a refrigeration system with Ueno's multi-unit refrigeration system since it allows for the system to continue operating even though one of the components is malfunctioning. This is advantageous because it allows for continual operation remotely and automatically without a need for a technician to fix the system immediately.

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Re Claim 2. Ueno et al fails to teach a transition section configured to, when the target refrigeration system components to be started up by the sequential startup section are all normally started up, make a transition to a normal operation while holding in a halted state the refrigeration system component from the target refrigeration system components by the failure processing section.

Toshira teaches a transition section configured to, when the target refrigeration system components to be started up by the sequential startup section are all normally started up, make a transition to a normal operation while holding in a halted state the refrigeration system component from the target refrigeration system components by the failure processing section (Paragraphs 28, 34, 58, 65, 58, 71-75, 87, 110-115; abstract).

In view of Toshira's teachings it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to include a transition section during a restart of a refrigeration system with Ueno's multi-unit refrigeration system since it allows for the system to continue operating even though one of the components is malfunctioning. This is advantageous because it allows for continual operation remotely and automatically without a need for a technician to fix the system immediately.

Re Claim 3 & 4. Ueno et al teaches a plurality of compressors (ref 14, 24, 34) and a plurality of fans (ref F) (Figure 1, Column 6 lines 4-30).

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Response to Arguments

3. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-4 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

4. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to TRAVIS RUBY whose telephone number is (571)270-5760. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday 9:30-6:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Frantz Jules or Cheryl Tyler can be reached on 571-272-6681 or 571-272-4834. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Travis Ruby/
Examiner, Art Unit 3744

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/Frantz F. Jules/

Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 3744